

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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P R 231636Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6092

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, US

SUBJECT: AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: LISBON 1087 (DTG 191357Z FEB 76)

1. AZOREAN JUNTA MEMBER JOSE DE ALMEIDA AND CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DELEGATE GERMANO DOMINGOS TOLD EMBOFF FEB 20 THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED BY EXTERNAL COMMERCE MINISTER JORGE CAMPINOS THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY TEAM HAD RECENTLY PUT FINAL TOUCHES ON GOP STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON AZORES FACILITIES. CAMPINOS REPORTEDLY WARNED THEM THAT AZOREANS WOULD HAVE TO MOVE FAST TO ENSURE THEIR INTERESTS WERE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED IN NEGOTIATIONS. ALMEIDA SAID HE HAD NO DETAILS OF GOP NEGOTIATING PLAN, BUT INTENDED TO URGE AZOREAN JUNTA TO QUERY FOREIGN MINISTRY ON BASE TALKS QUESTION UPON HIS RETURN.

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2. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NOT HEARD FROM THE GOP ON THE QUESTION OF REOPENING THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THE SPRING OF 1975. FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 19, 1975 THAT HE PLANNED TO MOVE AHEAD AFTER THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND THE US DESK OFFICER TOLD US MAY 19 THAT HE HAD BEEN PREPARING NEGOTIATING PAPERS.

3. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ANTUNES TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. HE WOULD NEED CLEARANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. THE PARTIES WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO AGREE BEFORE ELECTIONS, AND THE RC, WHICH HAS A STRONG ANTI-ANTUNES FACTION, WOULD ALSO PROBABLY PREFER TO AWAIT THE FORMATION OF AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT.

4. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT ANTUNES COULD STAY ON AFTER ELECTIONS, IN WHICH CASE IT BECOMES MORE PLAUSIBLE THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING NOW. HOWEVER, ANTUNES CONTINUES IN BAD ODOR WITH THE SOCIALISTS AS WELL AS THE PPD AND CDS, AND IT IS DOUBTFUL AT THIS POINT THAT HE COULD MUSTER SUFFICIENT MILITARY TO KEEP HIS JOB.

5. GOP IN THE PAST HAS TENDED TO START TALKING ABOUT REOPENING NEGOTIATIONS WHEN THEY HAVE FACED ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. SUCH MAY BE THE CASE NOW, AS THE GOVERNMENT SEES THE AZORES QUID AS AN ASSIST WITH THEIR SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
CARLUCCI

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